

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 11197 090722Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----056345 090735Z /21

O R 081615Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 448  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 11197

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, RH  
SUBJECT: USG CONCERN OVER MOUNTING VIOLENCE IN RHODESIA

REF: STATE 227288

1. IN ABSENCE OF MEA COMMISSIONER ADEFOPE AND AFRICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR OSOBASE, WHO ARE ACCOMPANYING OBASANJO ON HIS VISITS TO GUINEA, TOGO AND BENIN, POLCOUNS MADE REPRESENTATION ALONG LINES REFTEL TO AFRICA DEPARTMENT ACTING DIRECTOR VICTOR TAYLOR.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF PRESENTATION, TAYLOR ASKED WHAT PROOF EXISTED THAT NKOMO'S FORCES HAD KILLED THE TEN SURVIVORS. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS MORE LIKELY THE WORK OF SMITH'S FORCES. HE THEN INVEIGHED AT LENGTH ON THE FAMILIAR THEME THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES REACT ONLY WHEN WHITES ARE MURDERED.

3. WHEN POLCOUNS STRESSED THAT WE DEPLORE SUCH SENSELESS KILLINGS REGARDLESS OF WHICH SIDE INITIATES THEM, TAYLOR RETORTED THAT THE  
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PLANE WAS FLYING OVER A WAR ZONE AND UNTIL THERE IS A CEASE FIRE, THE PF HAS EVERY RIGHT TO CONTINUE ITS MILITARY STRUGGLE. IN ANSWER TO THE POINT THAT THESE VIOLENT ACTIONS MAKE FAR MORE DIFFICULT THE TASK OF SEEKING THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO WHICH BOTH NIGERIA AND THE U.S. ARE COMMITTED, TAYLOR ARGUED THAT INCREASED SHOW OF STRENGTH BY THE PF WILL HASTEN SMITH TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

4. COMMENT: TAYLOR'S COMMENTS WERE MADE FORCEFULLY AND DID NOT  
APPEAR TO BE MERELY HIS PERSONAL REACTION. ALTHOUGH TAKING ISSUE  
WITH EVERY POINT MADE, HE PROMISED TO TRANSMIT OUR CONCERNS TO  
HIS SUPERIORS.  
LEWIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, MASSACRES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LAGOS11197  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780367-0671  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Subject:** USG CONCERN OVER MOUNTING VIOLENCE IN RHODESIA  
**TAGS:** PDEV, PINS, PORS, RH, NI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014